

Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 GAC-01 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NASA-04 NSC-10 RSC-01

SCI-06 NSF-04 OTP-02 MC-02 H-02 RSR-01 /115 W

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R 261114 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7313

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: TSPA, XT

SUBJ: BELGIAN REACTION TO MEETING ON POST- APOLLO
COOPERATION

REF: STATE 75786

1. WE HAVE ASKED NATIONAL SCIENCE POLICY SERVICE SPACE
OFFICIAL VAN EESBEEK FOR HIS REACTION TO APRIL 18 MEETING ON
GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT ON POST- APOLLO COOPERATION. VAN
EESBEEK PREFACED HIS REMARKS BY SAYING " THERE WERE NO REAL
RESULTS; BOTH SIDES STUCK WITH THEIR POSITIONS"

2. VAN EESBEEK TOLD US THAT HE SAW MAJOR EUROPEAN CON-
CERNS ON GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT AS BEING:

A. SHORT DURATION (I. E., FIVE YEARS AFTER FIRST SHUTTLE
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LAUNCH) OF EXCLUSIVE EUROPEAN SUPPLY OF SORTIE MODULES.
ESRO COUNTRIES SEE NO REASON WHY THIS PERIOD COULD NOT
BE LONGER, AS LONG AS SPECIFICATIONS MET AT REASONABLE
COST.

B. NEED FOR SOME FINANCIAL SAFEGUARD TO PROTECT EUROPEANS
IN EVENT MAJOR MODIFICATIONS TO SORTIE MODULE RESULT IN
GREATLY INCREASED DEVELOPMENT COSTS.

3. VAN EESBEEK CONSIDERS FOLLOWING PROBLEMS TO BE OF SOME-
WHAT LESSER CONCERN, ALTHOUGH STILL IMPORTANT:

A. ESRO COUNTRIES UNDERSTAND THAT NASA, WITH BY FAR
LARGEST CONTRIBUTION TO POST- APOLLO PROGRAM, CANNOT ACCEPT
ANY EUROPEAN ROLE IN MANAGEMENT THAT WOULD AMOUNT TO A
VETO. THEY BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT EUROPEANS OUGHT TO
HAVE GREATER SHARE OF MANAGEMENT THAN ENVISAGED IN DRAFT
AGREEMENT.

B. EUROPEANS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF CON-
GRESSIONAL ACTION TO STOP OR GREATLY SLOW DOWN POST- APOLLO
PROGRAM, WITH OBVIOUS EFFECT ON SORTIE MODULE DEVELOPMENT.

4. VAN EESBEEK TOLD US HE HAD NO GREAT EXPECTATION FOR
MAY 3 MEETING. AS HE SEES IT, EUROPE IS IN TAKE- IT- OR-
LEAVE- IT POSITION. ALTHOUGH HE BELIEVES FRG SHARES ABOVE-
OUTLINED CONCERNS, HE THINKS THAT GERMANS WILL ACCEPT AGREE-
MENT AND THAT OTHERS WILL FOLLOW SUIT.

5. WE ASKED VAN EESBEEK, INCIDENTALLY, WHETHER NEW
MINISTER HANIN HAS INHERITED PRESIDENCY OF EUROPEAN SPACE
CONFERENCE (ESC) FROM LEFEVRE. ANSWER WAS THAT HANIN
RETAINED PRESIDENCY BUT THAT ESC PRESIDENCY HAS BECOME LESS
IMPORTANT AND WILL IN ANY CASE PASS TO HOST OF NEXT ESC
MEETING, WHENEVER AND WHEREVER IT TAKES PLACE.
STRAUSZ- HUPE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BRUSSE02264
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730456/aaaajcin.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 STATE 75786
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Jul-2001 by kellerpr>; APPROVED <10-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980209
Subject: BELGIAN REACTION TO MEETING ON POST- APOLLO COOPERATION
TAGS: TSPA, BE, XT
To: EUR
STATE INFO BERN
BONN
COPENHAGEN
MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

